

(1890, *Col. Brit. Isl.*, 4: 384) notes the species as extremely local, but, since he wrote, a number of further localities have been found in E. Kent and Essex; from elsewhere, however, I have seen only scattered records. The generally impermanent nature of the black nightshade, an annual typical of disturbed soils, may result in the beetle's being more seldom seen, as a rule, than its congener *E. atropae* Foud.; whereas the latter lives on a host (*A. belladonna*) which, though of very local occurrence, is a perennial that does not move its station from year to year. — A. A. ALLEN.

BORDERED STRAW: HELIOTHIS PELTIGERA D. & S. ON THE WING IN JANUARY. — The winter of 1982-83 was particularly mild, especially in the South West of England. Nevertheless I was extremely surprised to catch a Bordered Straw when it flew in through our opened kitchen door in Sheviock, Cornwall during the evening of 26th January 1983. The specimen appeared very fresh and I suppose the very mild weather must have stimulated not only the early emergence of the insect but also facilitated successful overwintering (or very nearly so anyway) of the species. — S. C. MADGE, 2 Church Row, Sheviock, Torpoint, Cornwall PL11 3EH.

MONOPIS WEAVERELLA (SCOTT), A MYSTERY SOLVED? — Like Mr. Pelham-Clinton (*Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* 95: 212) I also had often wondered where *Monopis weaverella* passed its larval stage. Old bird's nests sometimes contained *M. rusticella* (Huebner) larvae in quantity but never those of this closely related species. Then in July 1981, Mr. J. M. Nelson of the Nature Conservancy Council passed to me for identification a specimen of *M. weaverella* that he had reared from fox faeces collected in May of that year on Flanders Moss NR, West Perthshire. Subsequently several more imagines emerged from the same small piece of dung. The larvae had apparently fed inside the faecal material on a matted matrix of what appeared to be rabbit fur.

On the other hand a large quantity of Golden Eagle pellets collected by Dr. J. Watson (N.C.C.) in the Dubh Loch area of Wester Ross produced only *M. rusticella* and *Tinea pallescentella* Stainton — the former in considerable numbers. Some of these pellets from which moths emerged appeared, at least superficially, to have a similar composition to the fox dung from Flanders Moss. Until other reports occur, it is premature to say that the mystery has been solved but fox dung has, at least on one occasion, acted as the pabulum of the larvae of *M. weaverella*. — K. P. BLAND, 35 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh EH9 3HS.

MONOPIS WEAVERELLA (SCOTT), A SOLUTION TO THE MYSTERY — As an enthusiastic collector of unpleasant detritus, I was delighted to read the article on *Monopis weaverella* by E. C. Pelham-Clinton (*Ent. Rec.*, 95: 212), and here offer a solution to the mystery of the larval pabulum.

Whilst at Dungeness, Kent, on the 7th April 1983, I stumbled